

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fingerprint image acquisition apparatus including a fingerprint sensing device unit, a CCD device unit, and an image processing unit, the image processing unit comprising:

an A/D converting unit for converting and outputting the fingerprint image outputted from the CCD device unit into a digital signal;

an image buffer for storing the digital signal from the A/D converting unit; and

a controller for watching a state of the image buffer, ~~i.e., to determine~~ whether the fingerprint image is inputted and stored to the image buffer, and for storing the fingerprint image to a video memory if the storage of the fingerprint image is confirmed, wherein the controller is configured to[[;]]:

execute a process ~~executed by the controller,~~ for dividing the fingerprint image into a plurality of unit blocks with a predetermined size; and

execute a process ~~executed by the controller~~, for dividing the fingerprint image ~~as into~~ a center region and a peripheral region, each including a predetermined number of unit blocks, and for subdividing the each unit block of the center region into at least two or more-subdivided blocks.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~when storing the fingerprint image to the video memory after dividing it into a plurality of unit blocks, a fingerprint image is divided into the size of 8 X 6, i.e., unit blocks of 48 all the controller is configured to divide the fingerprint image into 48 unit blocks in a 6 x 8 matrix.~~

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the center region is set into at least one region.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the center region comprises a second center region in which the first unit block row and the last unit block row among the section of set subdivided blocks are set and a first center region in which the unit block except unit blocks B set as the second center region among set remaining subdivided unit blocks are set.

5. (Currently Amended) A fingerprint image acquisition apparatus including a fingerprint sensing device unit, a CCD device unit, and an image processing unit, the image processing unit comprising:

an A/D converting unit for converting and outputting the fingerprint image outputted from the CCD device unit into a digital signal;

an image buffer for storing the digital signal from the A/D converting unit; and

a controller for watching a state of the image buffer, i.e., to determine whether the fingerprint image is inputted and stored to the image buffer, and for storing the fingerprint image to a video memory if the storage of the fingerprint image is confirmed, wherein the controller is configured to[[;]]:

execute a process executed by the controller, for setting a size of the fingerprint image frame;

execute a process executed by the controller, for dividing the fingerprint image into a plurality of unit blocks with a predetermine-predetermined size;

execute a process executed by the controller, for setting a section of predetermined subdivided blocks;

execute a process executed by the controller, for dividing the fingerprint image into a predetermined size of center region including number of center regions, wherein each center region includes a predetermined number of the subdivided unit blocks; and

execute a process ~~executed by the controller~~, for dividing the fingerprint image into a peripheral region including a predetermined number of unit blocks.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein ~~when storing the fingerprint image to the video memory after dividing it into a plurality of unit blocks, the unit blocks of the center region are divided~~ the controller is also configured to divide only the unit blocks in a center region into at least two or more subdivided blocks ~~and the peripheral region is divided into a predetermined unit blocks by the controller.~~

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the center region is set into at least one region.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the center region comprises a second center region in which the first unit block row and the last unit block row among the section of set subdivided blocks are set and a first center region in which the unit block ~~except unit blocks set as the second center region among set~~ remaining subdivided unit blocks ~~B~~ are set.

9. (Original) A fingerprint image acquisition method comprising the steps of:
confirming whether the fingerprint image generated by contacting a finger on a surface of a fingerprint sensing device unit is inputted and stored to an image buffer;
dividing the fingerprint image into a predetermined number of unit blocks if it is confirmed that the fingerprint image is stored to the image buffer;
setting the divided fingerprint image into a center region and a peripheral region, each region having a predetermined number of unit blocks, and subdividing the respective unit blocks of the center region into a predetermined number of subdivided blocks; thereby obtaining the differentiated images at the center region and the peripheral region.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ each unit block of the center region of the fingerprint image is divided into at least two or more subdivided blocks.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the center region is set as at least one or more region.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the center region comprises a second center region in which the first unit block row and the last unit block row among the section of set subdivided blocks are set and a first center region in which the unit block ~~except unit blocks set as the second center region among set~~ remaining subdivided unit blocks are set.

13. (Currently Amended) A fingerprint image acquisition method comprising the steps of:

confirming whether ~~the a~~ a fingerprint image generated by contacting a finger on a surface of a fingerprint sensing device unit is inputted and stored to an image buffer;

setting a size of a fingerprint image frame if it is confirmed that the fingerprint image is stored to the image buffer;

dividing the fingerprint image into a plurality of unit blocks with a predetermined size;

setting a predetermined subdivided block section;

dividing the fingerprint image into a predetermined size of center region including a predetermined number of subdivided unit blocks;

dividing the fingerprint image into a peripheral region including a predetermined number of unit blocks that are not subdivided.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ each unit block of the center region of the fingerprint image is divided into at least two or more subdivided blocks.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the center region is set as at least one or more region.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the center region comprises a second center region in which the first unit block row and the last unit block row among the section of set subdivided blocks are set and a first center region in which the ~~unit block except unit blocks set as the second center region among set~~ remaining subdivided unit blocks are set.